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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 427  
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor former University of Tennessee football star Tori Noel, founder of the Opportunity Foundation, Inc., youth development program.

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee is very fortunate to have exemplary athletes, who in the finest traditions of the Volunteer State, give freely of their time and expertise to help our youth; and

WHEREAS, Tori Noel, a former star defensive back for the Tennessee Volunteers, is one such person, who recently formed the Opportunity Foundation, Inc., an exciting new after-care program for youth on probation; and

WHEREAS, the basis of the program is to rebuild the lives of the youth around the solid rock of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Tori played a key role in leading Memphis Melrose High School to a sparkling 9-2 record his senior year and an overall 21-9 record in three years as a starter. As a senior defensive back, he was credited with 85 tackles, eight interceptions and broke up seven passes; and

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WHEREAS, his many high school honors included being named to the *SuperPrep* All-American and the First-Team Sunkist All-American teams, his being rated the 6th best defensive back prospect in the nation, his ranking by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* as Tennessee's tenth best prospect, and his selection to *Memphis' Commercial Appeal* Tennessee Super Team, and First Team All-State squads; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded prospect, Tori chose to play at the University of Tennessee and in his first year as a volunteer, made 11 tackles while playing on primarily special teams; and

WHEREAS, after being redshirted in 1994, Tori started 9 of 11 games as a sophomore during the 1995 campaign; he finished the season with 36 tackles, caused three fumbles and broke up four passes, and in the Citrus Bowl, he added four more tackles; and

WHEREAS, in his junior season, Tori started all 12 games, made 64 tackles, had 12 big plays and recorded five tackles against Northwestern in the Citrus Bowl; and

WHEREAS, as a senior in 1997, he started all 13 games, was the second-leading tackler on the team, with 85 total hits, including 54 unassisted, had six passes broken up, had three sacks, and three additional tackles for losses. He was the Vols leading tackler in the Orange Bowl against Nebraska with 12 and played in the Senior Bowl; and

WHEREAS, following his stellar senior season, Tori was signed a free agent by the then-Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, where he quickly gained the admiration and respect of teammates for his aggressive play; and

WHEREAS, sadly, Tori's promising career in the NFL was cut short by a serious neck injury, in a positive way allowing him to channel his remarkable talents in other directions; and

WHEREAS, despite the numerous honors Tori has received, he is most proud of fulfilling his mother's dream and being the first member of his family to graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor this talented athlete and outstanding person; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Mr.Tori Noel for his noble community service to the good people of Memphis, expressing to him our deepest appreciation for his leadership in the Opportunity Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.